

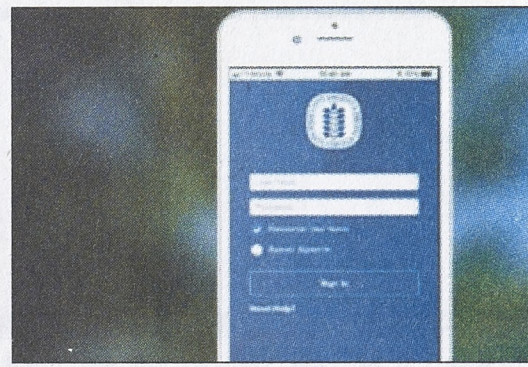
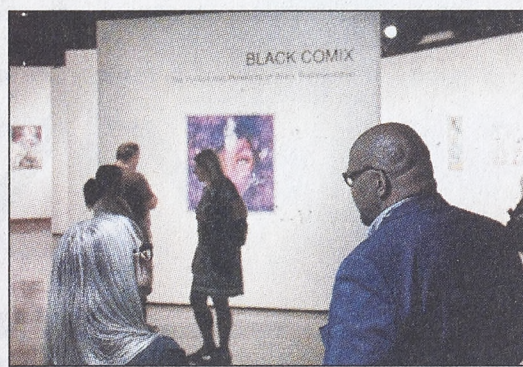
Valley The Star

AN INDEPENDENT MEDIA OUTLET

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Campus solid on active-shooter policy

Sheriff advises students to place sheriff's department on speed dial in case of emergency.



PHOTO BY/ SOLOMON SMITH

PERIMETER-Officers block off Fulton during last year's active-shooter call at Valley when a student mistook the sound of a backfiring car for gunfire and called Campus Security.

BY JESSICA LANGE AND
SARAH BENNETT
STAFF WRITERS

As the nation discusses campus safety in light of the recent school shooting, Valley College continues to follow its active shooter policy with one added twist.

"Every student should program the Los Angeles Valley Sheriff's departments number into their phone for quick access during an emergency," said Deputy Melvin Young.

The mass shooting on Feb. 14 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida totaled 17 victims, making it the deadliest school shooting since the

2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre, which resulted in the death of 26. Valley experienced an active-shooter lockdown two years ago after there was a report of a shooter on campus. It was a false alarm, but dozens of students and faculty were on lockdown for more than an hour.

During Valley's lockdown two years ago, staff and students were alerted through Blackboard Connect, the campus' emergency-notification system that will send out an alert via email, voice, and text message. Emergency procedures dictate that students should immediately move away from the shooter quickly and quietly. Students and faculty should look for a classroom that

locks and hide under desks or in locked closets.

If there are objects in the room that could block the door, use those to bar the door. As a last resort, act as a group arm yourselves, and commit to your actions when taking down the shooter, according to the active shooter policy card found in each classroom. Campus officials say that that campus should be alert at all times.

"[It] could happen any day, and we hope and pray it doesn't" said Young.

Due to Valley's open-campus policy, there is a limited amount of security measures to prevent anyone from entering the campus. In an effort to protect students in an active-shooter setting, every

summer staff and faculty go through a training with the sheriff's department on campus. Staff are also trained to be aware of potential students with behaviors associated with someone inclined toward violence, and report to the department chair, who then brings up the student to the Sheriff's office, according to Young.

President Donald Trump supports the controversial idea to arm teachers and coaches. Although most active school shootings happen on high school campuses, the threat of one happening at a community college or higher institutions is possible. When asked about arming instructors, Young

replied, "Our officers have weapons and we are trained to use them."

In the event that students believe there is an active shooter on campus, head to the nearest phone and dial 9-911. This will direct you to the sheriff's department on campus. This is alternate information to protocol found online. If you are outside of a classroom, dial (818)947-2911 to directly contact the sheriff's department. Students should call the Sheriff's number if they see suspicious activity or believe a student is at risk to themselves or others.

Abortion pills legal on college campuses

Abortion pills may soon be available to students on campus.

BY JESSICA LANGE
STAFF WRITER

The California State Senate has passed a bill that would mandate on-campus access to abortion pills for students on college campuses.

The bill requires student health centers to offer the medical abortion pill by January 1, 2022. The movement behind the bill started at the University of California, Berkeley in 2016 after Adiba Khan, a sociology and public health double major, co-founded the group, Students United for Reproductive Justice. Khan noticed that her student health center offered eighteen different types of contraceptives, yet nothing for abortion.

"I'm concerned that having the abortion pill on-campus, couples will be careless about practicing safe sex."

-Whitney Troutman

"Young people, like all people, need medically accurate information and reproductive health services, including contraception and abortion, so that we can make the decisions that are best for our lives and our futures" said Adiba Khan.

The abortion pill involves two drugs: mifepristone and misoprostol, and it is taken to safely terminate pregnancies within the first 10 weeks.

According to the Huffington Post, "medical abortion pills now account for 45 percent of abortions before nine weeks of gestation nationwide."

A group of private donors plan to donate \$20 million in startup costs. If the bill becomes a law, California will be the first state in the nation to provide medical abortion pills on campus. Currently, Valley College's health department offers free condoms and referrals to free clinics regarding birth control. According to Carolina Moreno, health education coordinator at Valley, "that would be a good if it's something they're adding on."

"I believe that if someone is thinking about abortion they should get counseling. If it's too easy to access they might regret it later on or it might affect their emotional health. But I also believe that it's a great thing for people who don't have access to go to Planned Parenthood or a doctor" said Gabby Garcia a first year interior design major at Valley.

However, some believe that abortion services don't belong on college campuses. According to Whitney Troutman, recent graduate student from Los Angeles City College, "I'm concerned that having the abortion pill on-campus, couples will be careless about practicing safe sex."

Survivors fed up with lack of action

Student-activists push for political leaders to create policy restricting access to guns.

BY SEBASTIAN MINO-
BUCHELI
STAFF WRITER

Within five days of the mass shooting in Parkland Florida, survivors rallied against gun violence and birthed the #NeverAgain movement to prevent such tragedies from recurring.

The main focus of the student-led movement is centered around policy change to restrict access to semi-automatic guns to prevent mass shootings. While student-activists were demanding policy change, memorial services were being held for four of the 17 victims last Tuesday, as reported by the ABC Local10 News. The shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School occurred when Nikolaus Cruz entered school grounds and began shooting students and teachers on Valentine's Day—it was over within minutes.

The continuation of mass shootings has led to students being fed up with the political inaction and deaths of classmates. Anti-gun rallies and nationwide marches on Washington D.C. are in the process of being planned. Organizers of the Women's March are planning a school walkout on March 14 and a National High School walkout will take place on April 20, the nineteenth anniversary of the Columbine shootings. Specifically students of Douglas High School are planning a march on March 24, 2018 under

the #MarchForOurLives.

The mission statement of #MarchForOurLives march reads: "March For Our Lives is created by, inspired by, and led

"We know they (gun rights activists) are claiming this is a mental health issue, and I'm not a psychologist,"

Emma Gonzalez

by students across the country who will no longer risk their lives waiting for someone else take action to stop epidemic of mass school shootings that has become all too familiar."

Emma Gonzales, one of the student from Douglas High School who continues to be in the national spotlight, spoke out at an anti-gun rally and was vocal on calling out gun lobbyists, politicians who have received funding from the NRA, and President Trump as complicit in the recent tragedy.

"We know they (gun rights activists) are claiming this is a mental health issue, and I'm not a psychologist," said Gonzalez, "but this isn't just a mental health issue because he wouldn't have harmed this many student with a knife."

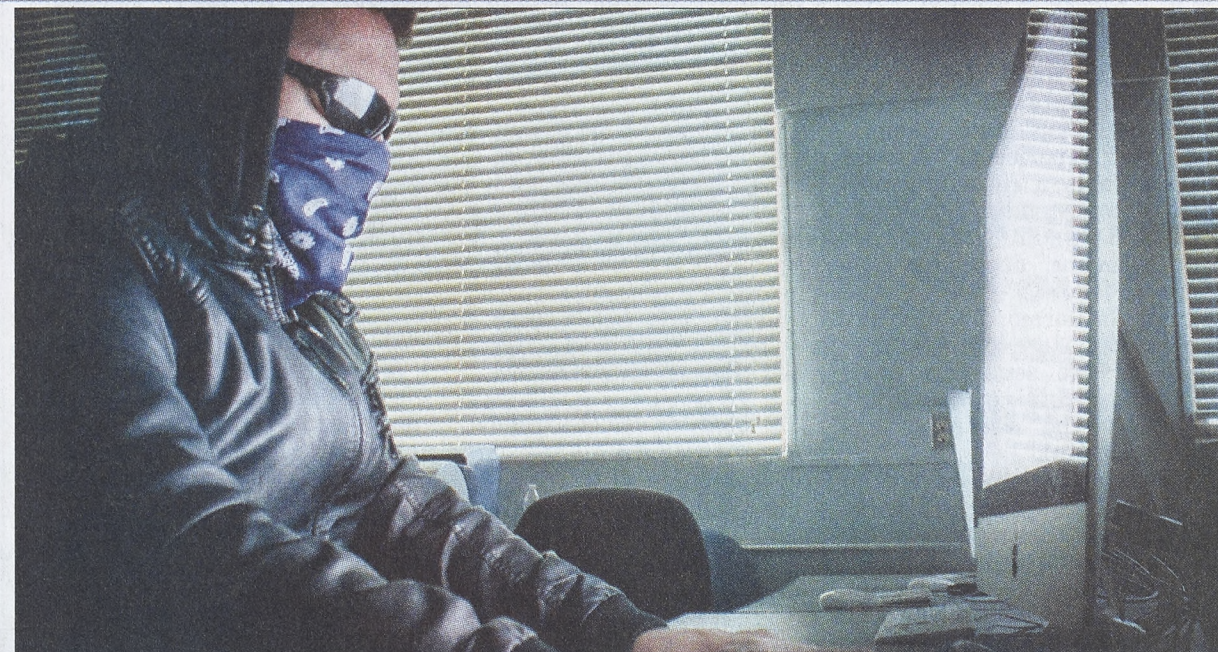


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION / ALISON MCKINLEY AND MIA GUZMAN

BLACKMAIL- Computer crimes can be difficult to track and students can be easily targeted

Extortionist targeted student

BY SOLOMON SMITH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

An unidentified assailant attempted to extort a Valley College student last December threatening to report the victims work as plagiarized.

The student, whose identity has not been released as the case is still under investigation, claimed to have received an email warning them that the sender would inform their professor they had plagiarized their work, according to Deputy Melvin Young.

The student denied the claims that they turned in work that was plagiarized or copied and reported the incident to the instructor.

The instructor called campus police. The sheriff's department, however, had very little to go on as the victim

had never seen the extortionist, who communicated their threat via email.

"In the interim, we did go out and tried to educate some of the classes in that area, and we did try to back-track and identify them," said Young. "The email address that it was sent from was wiped out and deleted almost immediately."

The account was not a school account but the sender remains unknown, and the victim did not pay the extortionist and was able to turn in their course work.

The crime was reported last December to the campus sheriff's department, which directed the case to the Community College Bureau of Detectives, under Detective Yost. The Star called Yost who was unavailable but spoke to her supervisor Sgt. Mitchell.

Plagiarism is a serious

offense on a college campus and can be punishable with a failing grade or even expulsion.

The Valley College Catalogue 2017-18 defines plagiarism as, "Plagiarism is the representation of expression of ideas from either published or published work(s) as students own."

Although the Valley Sheriff's department has shared what little information they could, the case is ultimately in the purview of the Detectives Department, which claims to be unable to share any information about the case in an effort to protect the identity of the victim.

It is unknown whether this is a singular event, where the investigation is, or whether detectives are any closer to discovering the author of the emails at this time.

NEWS

Workforce fair coming to Valley

Valley prepares to launch its annual job fair bringing employment opportunities to Valley students and the Los Angeles community.

By ERICK LOPEZ
STAFF WRITER

Students seeking career opportunities or looking for help on how to be recruited in the workforce need look no further, as the sixth annual Career Fair and Health Expo is coming to Valley College.

The event will aid students seeking a career by providing access to employers ranging from some of the largest corporations to smaller businesses. It will also assist applicants in creating resumes, along with other career activities.

The event is not limited to

career opportunities, however, and will provide free health screenings for HIV, BMI, and blood pressure, promoting for an overall healthy lifestyle, and health-related activities that the public can participate in will also be components of the fair.

The Economic Alliance, a non-profit organization, is funding the event along with over 100 sponsors from all over the country, including the likes of Mary Kay and Subway.

When asked about who is funding the event, Douglas C. Marriott, the dean of Adult/Community Education, stated that, "We were approached by the

Economic Alliance to host an event just for healthcare providers."

"The funding that had funded the Health Expo was eliminated", Marriott said when talking about who previously funded the event. "This partnership [with the Economic Alliance] allowed that to come back."

Without the funding from the Economic Alliance, it would have been difficult to support an event of this size and give the community the opportunity to advance further into the workforce.

The Career Fair and Health Expo will take place in LAVC at the Student Union Plaza on April 25th from 8:30a.m.-12:30 p.m.

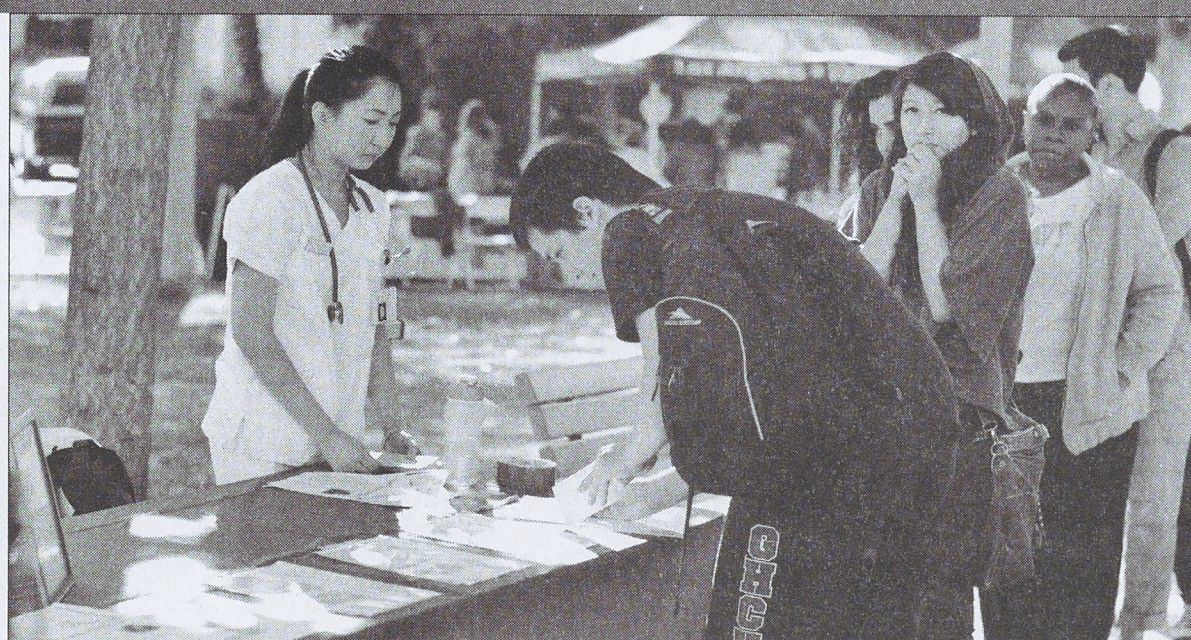


PHOTO BY/DALE BECK
JOB SEEKERS- Valley students study potential career paths at the 2017 Job Fair and Health Screening.

Chancellor reaches out to district Dreamers

By SOLOMON SMITH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

An email sent to all students and faculty in the LACCD by Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez reaffirms his strong support of Dreamers and immigrants under his watch.

LACCD Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez has been vocal about supporting the LACCD immigrant population before, sending out a personal message of support on September 5 last year, and encouraging students to not only enroll in the DACA program, but school as well. His latest statement is just as strong, and just as direct.

"On behalf of the nine college presidents and LACCD's Board of Trustees, I want to reaffirm LACCD's commitment as a place where all students can enroll and achieve their educational goals, regardless of their immigration status," wrote Rodriguez.

His latest letter, aimed at

allying concerns of the illegal immigrant population, about 11,000 according to Rodriguez

**"Dreamers
are vital to the
future health of
our economy and
to the stability of
our nation."**

-Chancellor Rodriguez

letter, who had been placed in a state of limbo after President Donald J. Trump's revocation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, on September 5, 2017. Only recently had the House and Senate extended enrollment.

Rodriguez directly addresses DACA and undocumented students, encouraging eligible students to enroll in DACA, and to enroll in LACCD. The letter even provides a link to help students with any questions they may have about enrolling in DACA.

The DACA program was created during President Barack Obama's administration to address the issue of illegal immigration by children. As minors many were sent or brought to the United States and have lived here for their entire lives. Many in Congress saw that these people needed a solution and came up with the failed DREAM ACT in 2011. After its defeat Obama created the DACA program as a "stop gap" measure, which now has a deadline of March 5.

The board of trustees also sent out an encouraging letter last October. Both letters state their support for the immigrant population and encourage students to remain vigilant and enroll in classes as they usual-

ly would.

California has definitely declared itself a sanctuary state and many local communities have followed suit. After a failed attempt by the house and the senate to come to some agreement on Dreamers and the DACA program, immigration became a sticking point for both parties. On the Democratic side DACA was a line in the sand, while Republicans eventually became stuck on the issues of the wall and immigration reform. These opposing goals ended in a stale mate and a two-day government shutdown.

The federal government has reopened and resolved its budget issues, and while Trump has spoken about extending the deadline for those eligible for DACA, the Dreamers and DACA recipient's remain in limbo while Immigration and Customs Enforcement continues its push to round up and deport illegal immigrants.

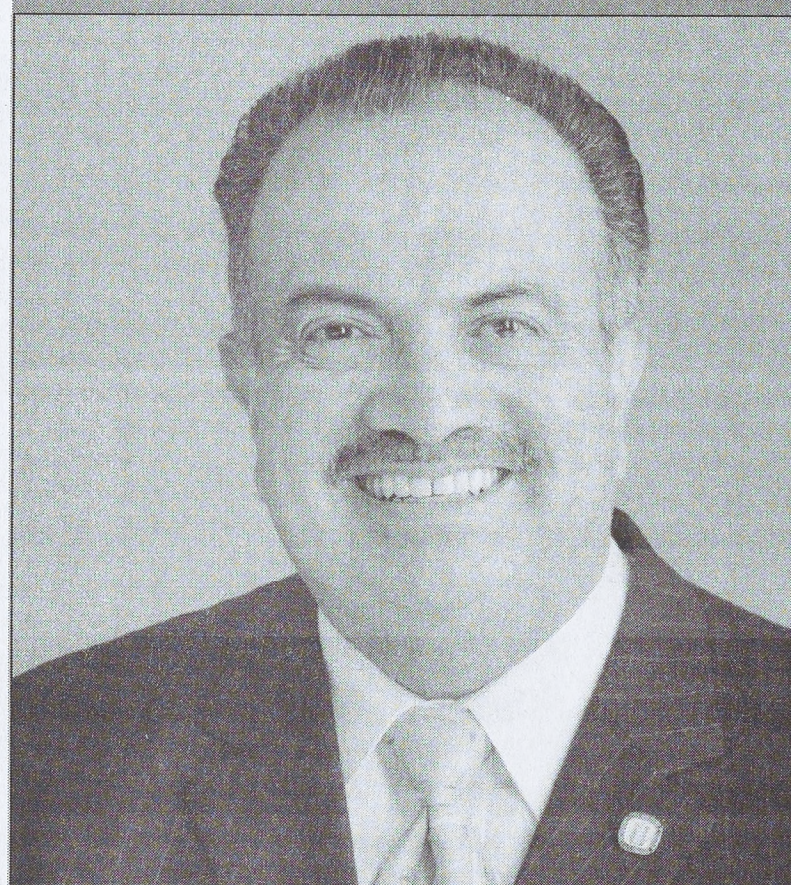


PHOTO COURTESY LACCD WEBSITE
SAFE SPACE- Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez, pictured, has a message of solidarity for students in his district.

Valley gives major guidance to students

The Career Center is introducing a workshop to help students with their undecided majors.

By Monserrat Solis
STAFF WRITER

With approximately 16,500 students with undecided majors, Valley College's Undecided Major Workshops will give students insight into future career paths.

The workshops are held in the Student Services Annex through the month of February for students unsure on a major or career. A shortened version of the Myers-Briggs personality test is used; the results categorize careers under the 16 personality types to narrow down the career assessment. This is an appointment with a counselor to plan the student's educational plan follows.

"Don't be afraid to ask questions, be open minded," said Grecia Chaparro, a graduate intern and former Monarch. Juan Ramirez, another graduate intern said these workshops and the Career/Transfer Center help "get students from point A to point B." Chaparro and Ramirez are two of the many graduate interns ready to assist students in the Career/Transfer Center. According to a Student Success

and Support Program Plan drafted by Valley College 7,500 students enrolled at Valley, 60 percent, are undecided. Some students who attended the workshop have reported good experiences. Lorena Gutierrez is a returning student who attended the workshop and found it "informative" and "relevant," describing it as "easy to follow."

Julian Guillermo, a psychology major who attended the workshop, is two semesters away from transferring to CSUN and said the workshop was "really helpful."

The workshops are offered on different days and times to accommodate students' schedules. Students are encouraged to reserve spots for the workshops by contacting the Career/Transfer Center at (818) 947-2646 or visiting their web page at lavc.edu/transfer/index.aspx.

The Career/Transfer Center offers other services like: college panels, college trips, help with college applications, and job shadow programs. All resources are posted on their webpage or students can see flyers around campus to be informed on all events.

PHOTO / ALLISON MCKINLEY

MAJOR- A valley student gets help with deciding his major.

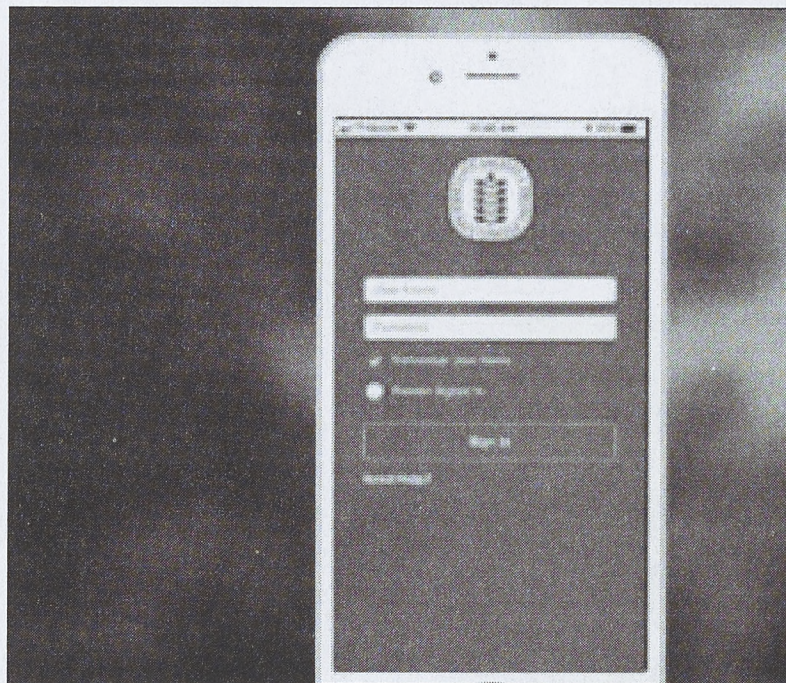
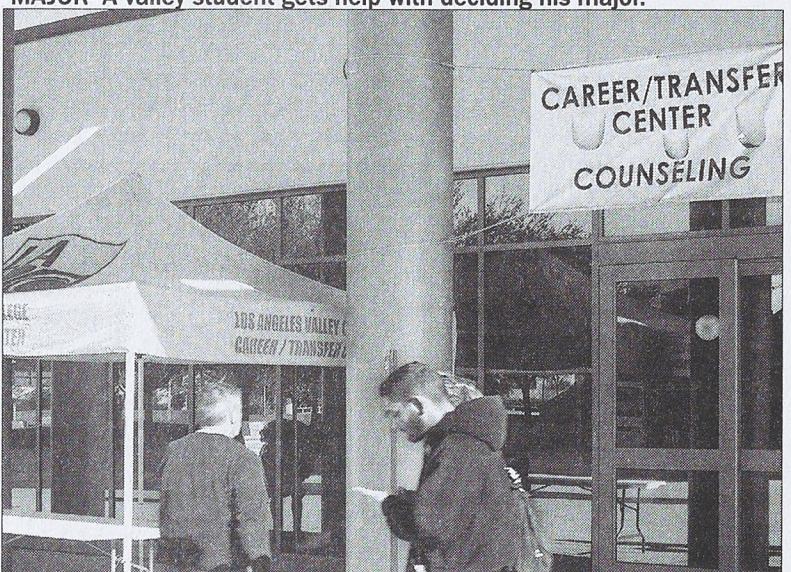


PHOTO COURTESY LACCD WEBSITE

SIS- Students can now use the SIS app to access records on the go.

Valley College: there's an app for that, too

LACCD has just launched the SIS mobile app district wide allowing students to have the information they need right at their fingertips.

By JAMIE GARCIA
STAFF WRITER

A new app, called MyCollege.laccd.edu, was announced this month through an automatic school-wide email. The email says that the new app is designed to help students access their school portal anywhere and anytime. The app allows students to view schedules, check grades, GPA's, add and drop classes and much more, while the old system restricted student access to a desktop computer.

"I'm so happy we don't have to log into a computer to check our schedule anymore," said Valley student Sam Pineda. "It was always such a hassle."

This app is free to download and is available for both Apple and Android. The only restriction the new app has is

that it will not allow students to add a class with a permission number or pay fees.

PeopleSoft is the network that has provided all community colleges in the district with the SIS since Fall 2017. The system was introduced to LACCD due to the hack that occurred last December in which the district had to pay a \$28,000 ransom in bitcoins to hackers.

"We needed a new SIS that wasn't tainted," said Kristine Dishchyan, a student worker at Los Angeles City College, "our emails and passwords were exposed to the hands of the hackers and we needed to start fresh."

The new app should give students one less thing to worry about now that they have the capability to check records, pay fees, and even enroll in the palm of their hands.

The Valley Star

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

OPINION EDITOR

LAYOUT EDITOR

ONLINE EDITOR

SOLOMON SMITH

NEWS EDITOR

KATHLEEN ZAMORA

PHOTO EDITOR

SEBASTIAN MINO-BUCHELI

STAFF WRITERS

SAVANNAH SIMMONS

FREDDY VEGA

SARAH BENNETT

VICENTE VITELA

JAMIE GARCIA

CEASAR MARTINEZ

ERICK LOPEZ

PAUL ORLEANS

MONSERRAT SOLIS

GABRIEL ARIZON

RAY VEGA

KARINA GUTIERREZ

JESSICA LANGE

PHOTOGRAPHERS

ALISON MCKINLEY

APET SUKIASYAN

MIA GUZMAN

ADVISERS

BILL DAUBER

ROD LYONS

Editorial and Advertising offices are at 5800 Fulton Avenue Valley Glen, CA 91401 (818) 947-2576

OPINION

3

President's proposal to give teachers guns a bad idea

President Trump wants to arm teachers and staff members with firearms on school campuses in opposition to what teachers and students actually want.

OPINION BY
SOLOMON SMITH
EDITOR IN CHIEF

President Donald J. Trump wants to put more guns in schools, which would be a disaster in the making.

In his usual style, President Donald J. Trump suggested that the answer to mass-shootings in public schools is to arm teachers-- a dangerous, irresponsible, and frankly, impossible policy.

After listening to the pleas of gun victims in the White House on Wednesday, the president suggested that gun-free zones would invite more shooters and the answer is to give guns to staff.

"If you had a teacher who was adept with the firearm, they could end the attack very quickly," said Trump.

It gets significantly worse:

"This would be obviously only for people who were very adept at handling a gun, and it would be, it's called concealed carry, where a teacher would have a concealed gun on them. They'd go for special training and they would be there and you would no longer have a gun-free zone. Gun-free zone to a maniac -- because they're all cowards -- a gun-free zone is 'let's go in and let's attack because bullets aren't coming back at us.'"

And then again Monday during a meeting with the nations governors, Trump continued to push this ridiculous idea.

There is a lot to unpack

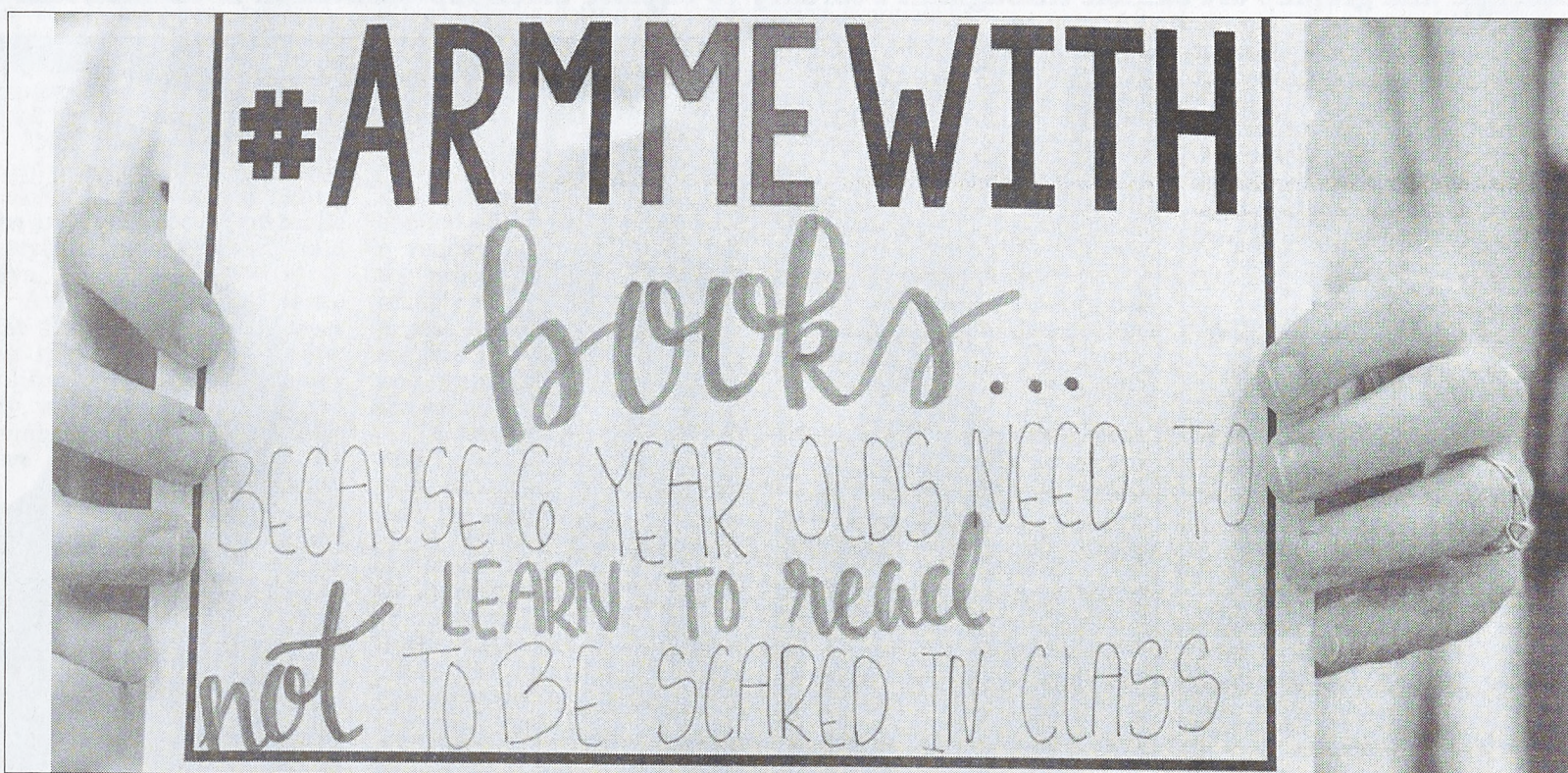


PHOTO FROM TWITTER

PROTESTERS- Teachers urge Trump to give them the appropriate tools to protect their students in messages tagged with #ArmmeWith on Twitter.

there but first, to be clear, more guns around children in the hands of civilians is ill-advised, or in plain language, pretty stupid.

Nine years in the Army National Guard, and two deployments as an infantryman has afforded me the opportunity to come to understand what it takes to properly handle a firearm in a combat situation. Years of eighteen-hour days with firearms of all types got me ready for combat

physically and mentally. I trained to not only to accurately put rounds on target, but to be able to react without thought, and make proper assessments about when and who to shoot. Trumps "annual training" for teachers is not going to cut it.

Realistically what you get when you put a gun in the hands of a non-professional shooter is a tragedy. Learning to identify targets quickly, assess threats accurately in a small space with panicked chil-

dren moving around is exactly what special operations and E-SWAT train for at intense schools which last from a few weeks to a year. This is not going to get taught to a teacher at an annual training program.

This idea of arming teachers also ignores the fact that a firearm itself is a dangerous tool. According to the website gunviolence.org about 1,964 accidental shootings occurred in the United

States in 2015 and 1,607 in 2014. These numbers exclude police shootings and suicides, with most occurring in the home. Accidental discharges (negligent discharges in the Army), or ADs, are a concern wherever firearms exist.

"The accidental discharge from a firearm is part of police work," wrote Jim McNeff in an article in Law Enforcement Today, a trade magazine for law enforcement professionals.

McNeff discusses not only the inevitability of an AD but the responsibility of one as well. Guns on campus open school districts up to liability and lawsuits when, not if, they happen.

Trump's silly idea speaks to a bigger problem with the president, which is a lack of depth in understanding complex problems and an inability to create cogent policy. Active shooters of the type that have been plaguing the country are not planning on surviving after their terrible acts. Trump's assertion that these shooters are simply "cowards" ignores the fact that most of them have been disturbed individuals who planned to die.

The president's solution to mass shootings is not preventative, but to have us wait for a shooting to occur, people to die, and then deal with it with a "major retaliation." Even with guns present on campus for defense there is no guarantee that a teacher will stop the shooting or not make it worse, and many teachers do not want guns on campus.

Governor Jay Inslee (D) Washington said, "We need to listen, that educators should educate, and teachers should not be worrying about packing heat in first grade classes."

President Trump would turn a place of safety for our children into a war zone because he lacks the courage to deal with the problem at its root. Instead he would insert more violence into our schools.

No, Mr. President arming teachers with guns is a stupid idea.

Olympics are not necessary

It is time to reconsider the Olympics.

OPINION BY
SAVANNAH SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

From problems with infrastructure to what athletes do when the games are over begs the question, are the Olympics even worth it?

When you think of the Olympics, you think of lavish stadiums, extravagant ceremonies, and, most of all, elite athletes. What is left when the Olympics are over is not often considered.

Most cities take on debt to create an infrastructure for the games and have to wait to see if the money spent will be gained back through tourism and ticket sales. Take a look at the 2016 Summer Games held in Rio, Brazil. The country already had issues with infrastructure and a weak economy, so taking on the job of hosting was a major burden. Looking at pictures of where the Rio Olympics were held one would think they are looking at an abandoned city or post-apocalyptic town. All the structures and stadiums that were built have gone to waste and are completely trashed. The homeless have set up camp in the ransacked soccer area, the golf course is now barren, and the swim stadium's pools are either drained or have turned a toxic-looking shade of orange. This was not a good use of Brazil's money.

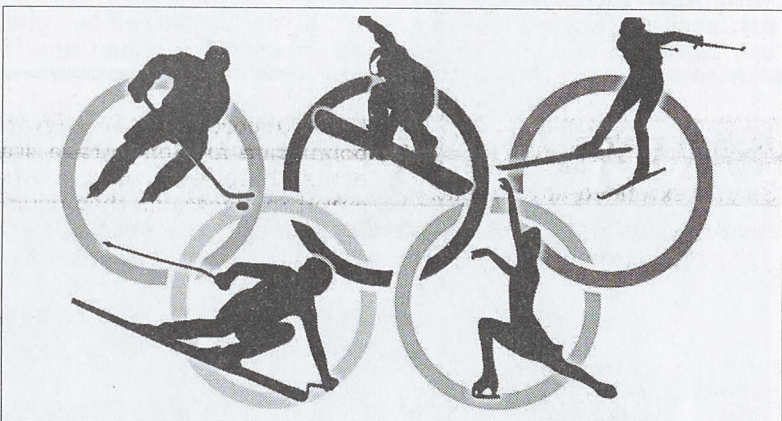


PHOTO FROM PIXAPIXEL

For some, the Olympic symbol represents a sign of waste.

The PyeongChang Winter Olympics had a projected cost between \$7 and \$8 billion, reported by the Council on Foreign Relations, but ended up being an estimated \$12.2 billion. These games are happening now and things are not looking too bright as ticket sales are not up and there is a tourism deficit. There is no point in going over budget by \$5 billion for the Winter Games because who is really traveling to another country to watch skiing, luge, or curling? They're willing to gamble debt in hopes that money will be made back, money that just is not flowing in.

There problems for host countries and the athletes as well. Olympic athletes do not profit as much off of an Olympic appearance as a person may think. Sponsorships are given out to some; the few who are extremely talented in their sport, attractive, or

different enough to have garnered attention for themselves. Thinking about the time and money that goes into training for such an event, is it equal to the short amount of fame and glory they receive?

After athletes decide to retire from the sport they go back to their lives to become coaches, motivational speakers, or even get jobs completely unrelated to the sport they left. They may have a record or a medal but few in the public sphere will remember or care. There will always be someone training to be the next great athlete and take the spot of the talent before them. It all seems like a lot of build up for such a short appearance in front of the world.

Considering what really goes on after the Olympics have run amuck on the host city, and the athletes that participated in it, it is not hard to see that realistically, the Olympic Games are not necessary.

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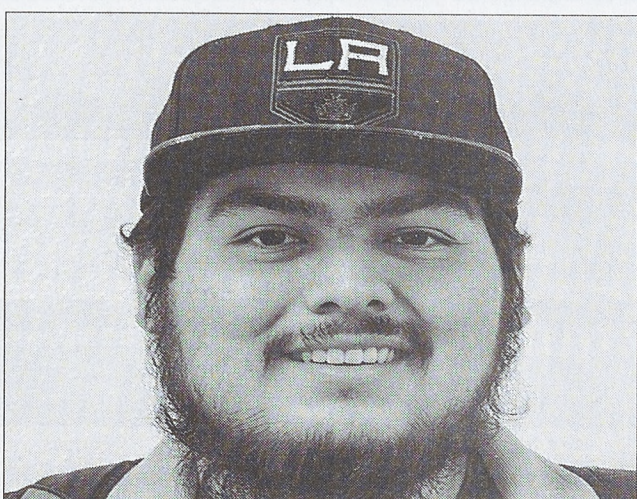
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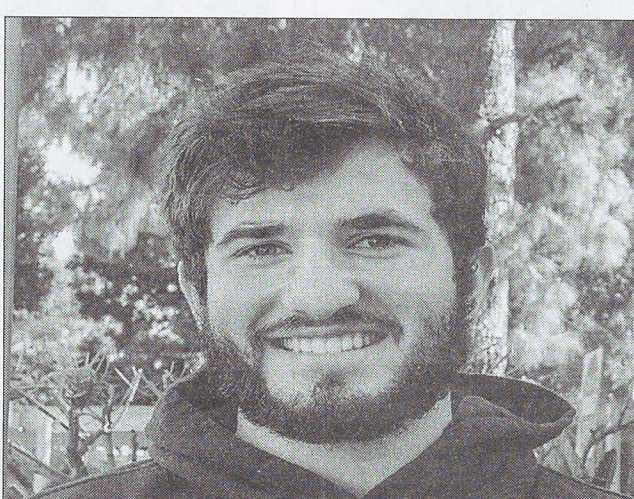
VALLEY VIEW

What do you think about the abortion pill being available on campus?

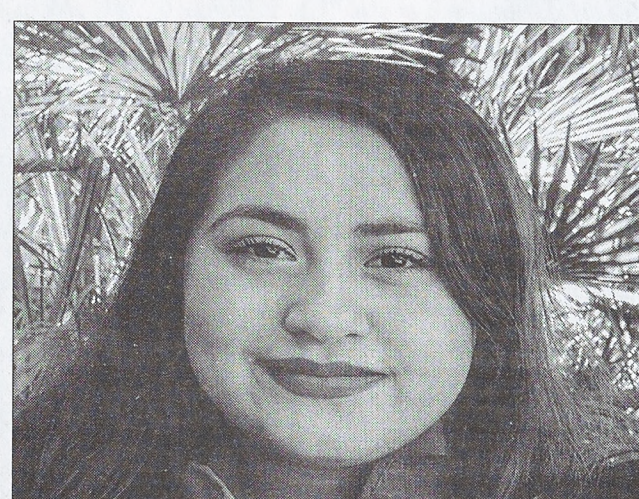
BY VICENTE VITELA AND JAMIE GARCIA WITH PHOTOS BY MIA GUZMAN



"I think it's a positive thing and people need to take the right precautions and having accessible at school is good."
-Zeke Perry



"Its better to be prepared than not and it's a great alternative to have."
-Razmig Tanshian



"I think it's good and very beneficial because it happens and it's a good alternative."
-Andrea Rivas

VALLEY LIFE

“Black Comix” celebrates cultural identity through art

Valley College is hosting a comic and graphic art exhibit throughout February to explore black representation in mainstream culture and media.

BY GABRIEL ARIZON
AND ERICK LOPEZ
STAFF WRITERS

Valley College is celebrating Black History Month by displaying 40 images of comic and graphic art that explores black racial representation in mainstream culture and politics.

When asked for what kind of response he was expecting, co-curator Dr. Adilifu Nama said, “I think, for me, expecting people who don’t normally think of comic book art as art. To see people grapple with that idea.”

The “Black Comix: The Politics and Pleasures of Black Representation” Art Exhibition displays 40 images within the Art Building from the book “Black Comix Returns,” a collection of art and essays celebrating African American independent comic art and culture by some of the best writers and illustrators in the field. The book was put together by John Jennings, New York Times bestselling comic book creator and co-curator of the exhibit, and Dr. Damian Duffy, a Glyph Comics award-winning New York Times bestselling graphic novelist.

The book comes as a follow-up to their previous work in 2010, “Black Comix: African American Independent Comics, Art and Culture.” A Kickstarter campaign launched in early 2017 for “Black Comix Returns,” receiving \$26,931 in donations before getting a publisher.

The exhibit came about when Valley College Art Professor Phung Huynh reached out to Dr. Nama, who in turn contacted Jennings. With the release of “Black Comix Returns” on the horizon, Jennings saw it as a good

“I always think about prior to around 2001, 2002, it was just known in American comics that girls don’t read comics,”

-said Duffy

opportunity to promote the book and its art.

“I think everyone needs to see themselves reflected in this culture,” said Jennings. “I think a lot of times when people are in smaller spaces, they don’t see the breadth of what’s out there.”

“They’re calming, like the art contains movement that flows freely,” says Valley College student Alexandria. “They show what’s out there in the world through the lens of the artist.”

On Feb. 8, Valley College held the opening reception for



PHOTO BY / ALISON MCKINLEY

PROUD ARTIST- Dr. Nama discusses the art on display at the opening of the “Black Comix” exhibition with Prof. Jenene Nagy, the gallery director.

the exhibit and a panel that consisted of Jennings, Nama, Duffy, screenwriter and cartoonist Tony Puryear, animator and designer Shawna Mills, and comic creator Jason Reeves. The panel discussed the politics of bringing their images and visions into a setting that has historically marginalized people of color and women.

“I always think about prior to around 2001, 2002, it was just known in American com-

ics that girls don’t read comics,” Duffy said. “And then they started translating manga, and I was like oh, girls just don’t read your comics.”

“We can’t just show black folk, people of color, just down-trodden,” Dr. Nama said. “Sometimes by showing black people just smiling is actually a political act.”

When asked how they deal with negative feedback to their art, such as making the viewer uncomfortable, Puryear

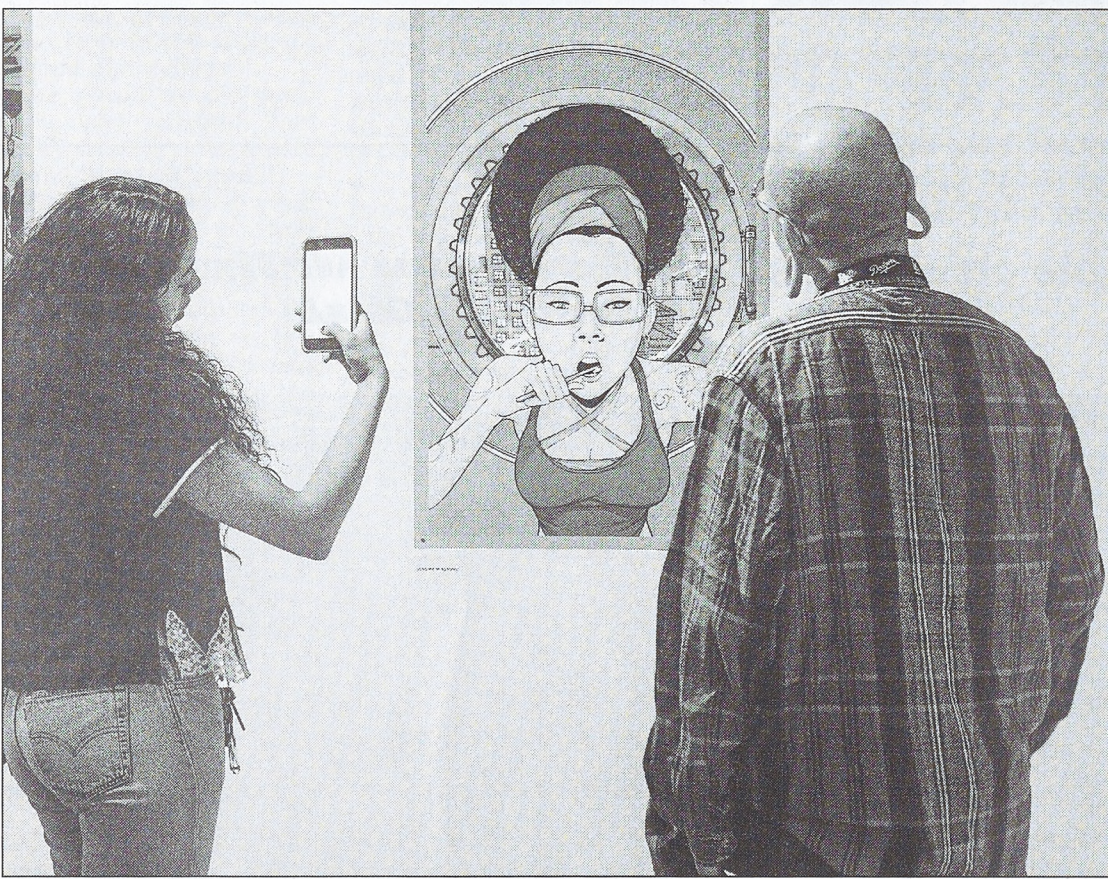
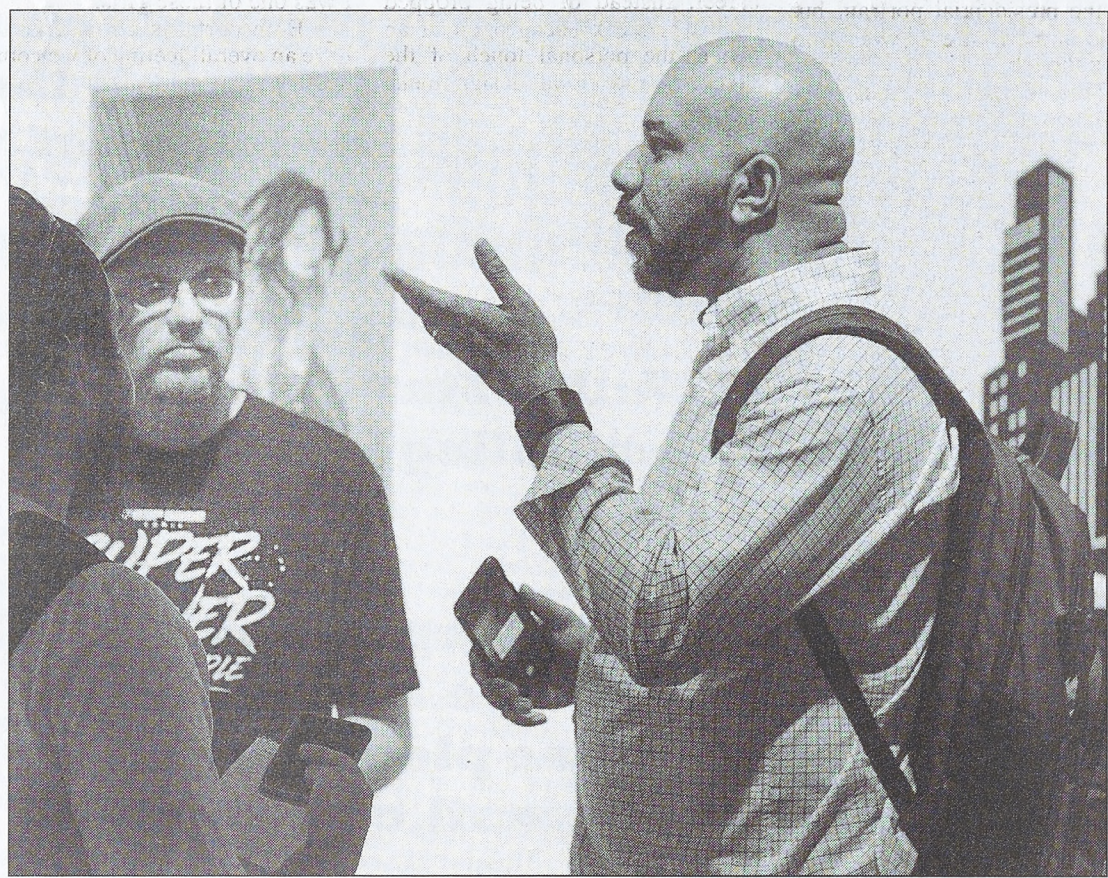
responded, “You just gotta be better than that, you gotta be more imaginative. That’s the challenge. That’s the fun.”

As the panel was asked how they respond to remarks that their works are not salable due to their characters not matching certain tropes, Reeves said, “I personally don’t deal with it. I’ve been focusing on making different spaces for us.”

Mills recounted a pitch she made during her time at

Cartoon Network, saying, “I remember having the character’s hair kinda nappy-ish, just kinda similar to what the main character’s hair is now, and I ended up changing it because it didn’t look marketable. That’s what I was told.”

“Black Comix Returns” released on Feb. 7 for \$30 and will receive a wider release on Feb. 20. The exhibit will be open in the Art Gallery on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays between 11-2. It will



Students examine the art on display from the “Black Comix” art exhibit, now open and running through March 8. The exhibit displays the art of up and coming black comic artists, many of whom have their own works available through small publications.

PHOTOS BY /ALISON MCKINLEY

HERE ARE SOME OTHER EVENTS ON CAMPUS DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



BLACK HERITAGE MATTERS

FEB 8

BLACK COMIX: THE POLITICS AND PLEASURES OF BLACK REPRESENTATION

ART EXHIBIT RUNS FEBRUARY 5 TO MARCH 8

FEB. 8 OPENING RECEPTION 6PM AND PANEL DISCUSSION 7PM IN ART 103 Campus
REGULAR GALLERY HOURS: M-W-TH 11AM – 2PM Art Building

FEB 10

LOS ANGELES BLACK COLLEGE EXPO

LA Convention Center

EXPO HOURS: 9AM – 5PM; ENTRY FEE \$7 - \$8 1201 S. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles
Students to arrange transportation

FEB 20

FILM SCREENING AND PANEL DISCUSSION

“I Am Not Your Negro”

1:00 pm - Monarch Hall

2016 documentary based on James Baldwin’s unfinished manuscript, “Remember This House.” A journey into black history that connects the past of the Civil Rights movement to the present of #BlackLivesMatter

FEB 21

BLACK SCHOLARS MATTER: NAVIGATING COLLEGE AND STUDENT SUCCESS

12:45 pm - Student Services Multi-Purpose Room

FEB 26

BLACK HERITAGE MIXER MEET DR. ELLIOTT CONEY, BLACK SCHOLARS COUNSELOR

12:45 pm - Student Services Plaza

CULTURAL CELEBRATION

1:00 pm - Student Services Plaza

FEB 28

Check out the LAVC Library Suggestions: <http://libguides.lavc.edu/black-heritage>



In Collaboration with: Student Equity, Associated Student Union, Art Department, Media Arts, History Department, Student Services, Ethnic Studies, Library, Black Student Union, Health Center

These events are wheelchair accessible. Individuals needing sign-language interpreters, assisted listening devices, large print, Braille materials or any other accommodations should contact the Student Services office at 818-778-5998.



VALLEY LIFE

5

Dreamer elected ASU President

The ASU has elected a new ASU President, a Dreamer and DACA recipient.

By **SOLOMON SMITH**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Leslie Silva Allegre, a 19 year-old Valley student, is taking the reins of what has been described as a troubled organization. In the last two years the ASU has dealt with a long list of problems: disappearing officers, disqualified officers, club funds accountability and low voter turn-out are just a few examples. Silva participated in several clubs on campus and saw, firsthand, the need for leadership and better communication between the ASU and the clubs.

"I wanted to be able to help those clubs," said Silva, "I wanted them to feel like they can come to me than to just take all their issues to the ICC."

Silva intends to take the ASU in a new direction and has the tools that she needs to do so—a complete staff. This year the ASU has filled

almost all executive positions and most of the commissioner's positions as well. With more man power Silva is optimistic about getting things done.

"Now that we do have a full board I believe that we'll find it easier to take on our actual jobs and really focus and make everything more efficient," said Silva.

Another, broader, issue that Silva wants to address are those of the Dreamers. California is a sanctuary city and the LACCD board members and Chancellor have shown their support for the immigrant community through various email messages and websites designed to help Dreamers navigate the processes of the Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals (DACA) ever since President Trump rescinded it.

"A lot of DACA students, or just people who are undocumented, they're scared to even join clubs on campus or even get an education here," said

Silva. "That's definitely something I want to address."

Being a Dreamer herself, Silva has first-hand experience about how frightening trying to live and work in the United States without the proper documentation can be. She has applied and been approved for a renewal under DACA, but the process requires that she reapply every two years. She is also seeking a path to citizenship in the next few years and wants to help others do the same.

"I want to make it known that 'no you're safe here,'" Silva said, "and that you can rightfully get an education."

A better relationship with the student body will be a little harder. In the last few years getting students to vote in the ASU elections or run for office has been difficult and led to many of the positions being left vacant. Last semester Treasurer Katona was the acting president of the ASU because there was no president

or vice-president.

Allegre hopes to increase student interest in the ASU and encourage students to participate. She and her officers have been reaching out through on campus events and class room talks. She is hopeful that she can get the numbers she needs to keep the executive officers positions filled.

As Allegre moves toward graduation she has her eye on attending CSUN. Her hope for the future lies with getting the country to help its Dreamer and immigrant population. Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez, and the board members of the LACCD have been vocal in their support of the immigrant population, and to Silva this has been a source of comfort.

"It was a sense of relief knowing that I had someone there to support me through my educational goals, because I didn't think they cared that much about us but they definitely do."

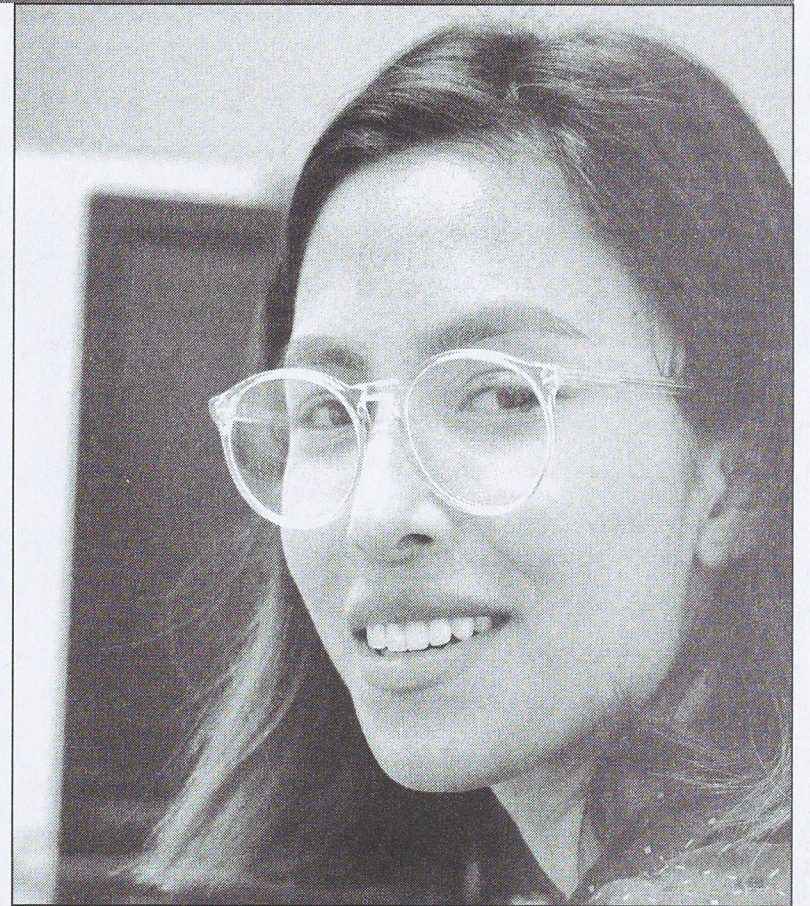


PHOTO BY/ SOLOMON SMITH

DREAMER- Allegre plans to stand by her fellow Dreamers.

Black artists become first to paint presidential portrait

The Obamas' official portraits are wildly different from its predecessors.

By **SAVANNAH SIMMONS**
STAFF WRITER

Exuding the same uniqueness the couple carried with them while in office, Barack and Michelle Obama's official portraits were revealed Monday at the National Portrait Gallery.

Kehinde Wiley, a New York based contemporary artist was commissioned by Obama for his official portrait, while Baltimore based, Amy Sherald, was chosen for Michelle's. Not only were Wiley and Sherald the first African-American artists to be chosen to paint the presidential portrait, but Sherald is the first ever woman to take on the job.

"This is who we as a society decide to celebrate, this is our humanity, this is our ability to say 'I matter,' 'I was here,'" said artist, Wiley, when speaking on his piece. "The ability to be the first African-American painter to paint the first African-American President of the United States is absolutely overwhelming."

Standing seven feet tall, Obama's portrait is vibrant and eye catching inviting the viewer

to explore the piece a little deeper. Sitting in a wooden chair with his arms resting on his knees, Obama has a simple but welcoming expression on his face. The background is the real winner of the piece with green leaves surrounding the president all the way down to his feet. Tangled in the leaves are bright flowers waiting to be spotted. These different flowers all hold meaning to Obama himself from the African lilies from Kenya, where his father hailed from, the Jasmine flowers from Hawaii where he grew up, to the Chrysanthemums from Chicago where he started his political career. Instead of being propped against a bleak background of an office, the personal touch of the greenery and floral design make the portrait that more special.

"I am in awe of Kehinde's gifts and what he and Amy have given to this country and to the world," expressed Obama, thanking the artist, "and we are both very grateful to have been the subject of their attention for this brief moment."

While standing next to Obama's vibrant piece, Michelle's portrait reads somewhat bland, but is still a powerful work by

itself. The background chosen was a shade of baby blue making the dress she is wearing the star of the work. The lively former first lady has her strong side showcased in her portrait with her regal expression and toned arms drawing you in. Looking into the eyes of the portrait you a viewer can clearly see she is a woman who cannot be stopped.

"They will see an image of someone who looks like them hanging on the walls of this great American Institution," said Michelle Obama during the unveiling. "And I know the kind of impact that will have on their lives because I was one of those girls."

Both portraits are stylish and have an overall feeling of welcome-ness which makes the Obamas seem more like real people for everyone to look up to rather than political figures to be afraid of. It is only natural to have portraits as charismatic as the Obamas are and hold the colorfulness they had while in office which is currently lacking in the office we have now.

Obama's portrait will hang in the Smithsonian's "Hall of Presidents" while Michelle's will remain in the museums collection.

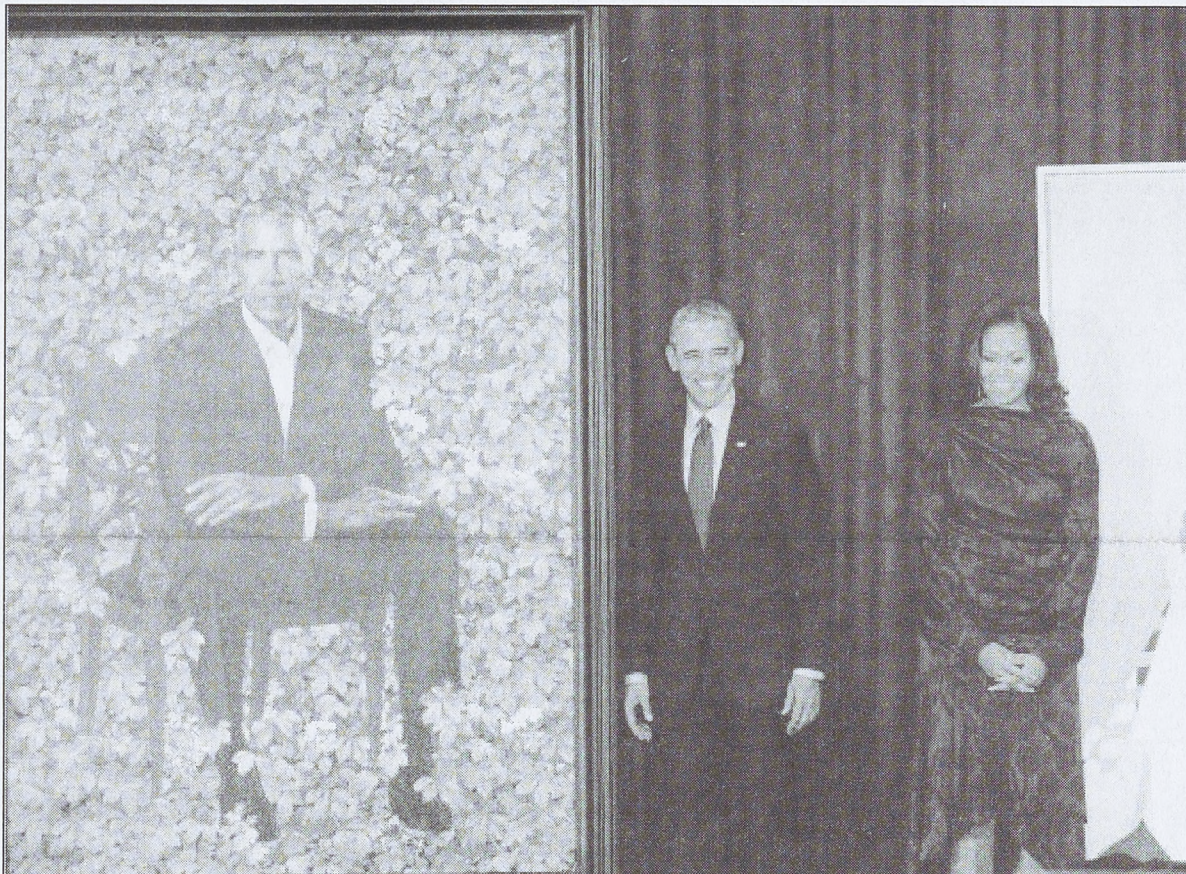


PHOTO COURTESY THE GETTY

PRESIDENTIAL PORTRAITS- The former president and first lady have chosen unique artists for their portraits.

LAVC Foundation provides aid to Monarchs

The Foundation is here to give away free money to hardworking students.

By **PAUL ORLEANS**
STAFF WRITER

If you are looking for ways to help pay your college tuition, the Foundation office should be one of your first stops.

Established in 1971, The Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization that is designed to receive gifts for the college from individuals, corporations, as well as any organization. These stipends and scholarships that students are awarded come out of the goodness of people's hearts, a lot of them being former students "paying it forward" as Raul Castillo, Foundation Executive Director (LAVC Class of 1988) put it.

The LAVC Foundation is a fundraising group that raises money to award scholarships to Valley students along with other charitable agendas that support the campus and its students. Last year, the Foundation awarded \$207,000 in scholarships and stipends which was distributed among 344 students.

Valley College's Foundation office has increased their scholarships and stipends awarded from \$184,000 in 2016 to \$207,000 in 2017 according to the organizations' 2017 annual report. Castillo shared that the Foundation aims to raise and award even more money in the near future. "The goal is to be all encompassing, we exist to support Valley College and its students," said Castillo.

From Biology to CAOT, there is a wide range of scholarships that the Foundation raises money for. The application process starts by providing a list of minimum criteria

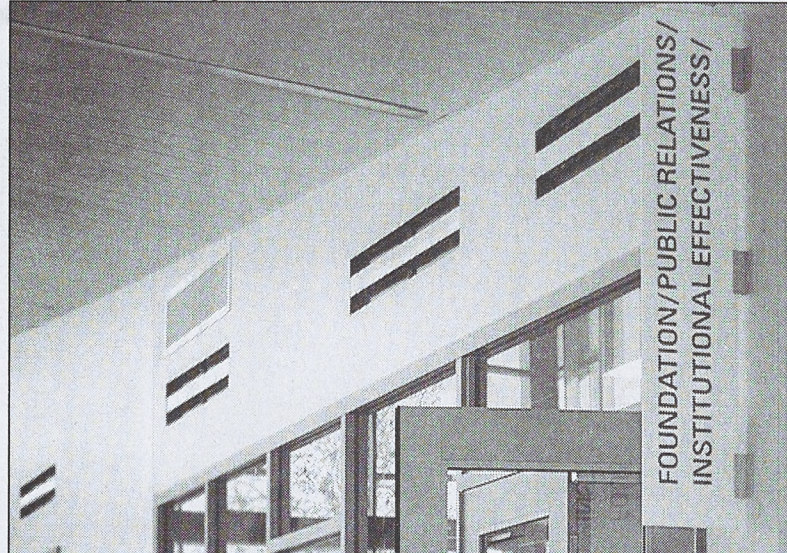
required in order to qualify for any of the specific scholarships so right off the bat you can figure out what you qualify for. If all the criteria is met, the next step is to fill out your basic information which doesn't take long as each of the applications are at most one page.

The deadline to submit an application is March 14 by 4 p.m. The new Foundation office is located on the second floor of the Administration building which is between the library and the Foreign Language building. Applications can also be found on their website to print at <http://www.lavcfoundation.org/scholarships.php>.

The General Pooled scholarship is the most awarded one, which requires a student to provide a copy of their transcripts, have a minimum of a 2.5 G.P.A., and be enrolled in at least 12 semester units. The applicant must also have two recommendation letters from Valley faculty members and

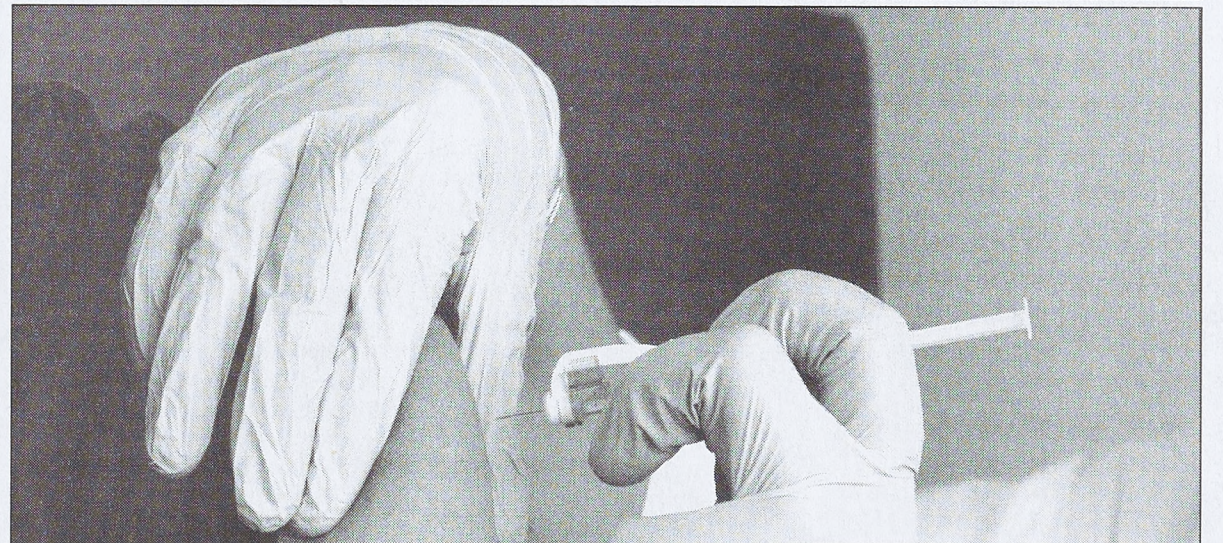
must write an original 250-word typed essay about themselves, their professional goals, and explain why they feel they deserve to be awarded a scholarship or explain any financial needs and hardships they have faced. The largest general pooled scholarship awarded is "LAVC Foundation Scholarships." There are five, \$500 and ten, \$1,000 scholarships that will be awarded this year, and there are 17 different kinds of general pooled scholarships on the list.

"If it were not for the Foundation scholarships I received, I likely would not have been able to complete my sophomore year, graduate from Valley, and transfer to UCLA," said Manny Bouskila, a Valley alumni who earned multiple scholarships that helped further his education. "I am so grateful to you for your support of the Foundation. Thank you for supporting the curious college programs and students like me."



PHOTO/ SEBASTIAN MINO-BUCHELI

FOUNDATION-Office on the second floor of the administration building.



PHOTO/ RHODA BAER

PRECAUTION- A simple vaccine can help students avoid serious illness during this extended flu season.

Health Center gives free vaccines

Influenza is dangerous but proper vaccinations can help protect students.

By **JESS CALLEJAS, AND SOLOMON SMITH**
STAFF WRITERS

One of the worst flu seasons in recent memory has spread across the nation and the Valley Health Center has teamed up with a local hospital to help students fight this epidemic.

The flu season this year has been exceptionally long and deadly. In a recent bout of deaths, totaling to a little over 40 throughout the country, flu victims have been flooding local hospitals.

The virus affecting these victims is actually a family of viruses, with a few standing out as particularly lethal and hard to treat. These viruses have been difficult for local medical facilities to handle because they spread quickly. The Valley Health Center has begun to employ a vaccination program on campus specifically for students. This is not completely new to the cam-

pus. What is different, however, is that it is going to be funded by the Valley Presbyterian, who have agreed to pay for 50 doses of a vaccines containing a quadrivalent of four different strains. Fifty doses may not seem like a lot but last year the center only vaccinated 25 students, who had to pay \$25 per dose.

"There's four different strains in there that they might cover," says Sonia Nodal director of the Valley Health Center. "Every year they are just trying to adapt to things that are evolving."

These vaccinations are specifically meant to target the new wave of viruses going around. Contrary to popular belief, the flu shot does not give you the flu; it contains inactivated viruses that will allow the anti-bodies to ward off potential viruses.

"There's many misconceptions about the flu vaccine. Many think they are going to get the flu by getting the vaccine, which is not true," says Nodal. "It's getting past those myths, the flu vaccine is truly not

a real live vaccine its emulating the flu."

The flu season can start as early as September and can last up to May, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

According to the CDC, there were 97 deaths reported for the 2017-2018 flu season, which is from October to February. There are four strains of the Influenza viruses: A, B, C, and D. Each of these contains subcategories targeting different parts of the respiratory and immune system.

College students are especially at risk because they are constantly in communal spaces and closed-off environments.

"Whether it's flu season or not, be proactive and always try to have a balance and get some rest when you can," says Nodal. "I know as students it's impossible at times but get some extra hours of sleep."

For more information, visit the LAVC Student Health Center.

SPORTS

Monarch's Softball Dominates



PHOTOGRAPHS/ APET SUKIASYAN
SOFTBALL-Shortstop Sabrina Steward takes a big cut at the plate as she helps power the Monarch offense.

The Monarchs use hot bats and timely pitching to up-end West L.A.

BY VICENTE VITELA
STAFF WRITER

The Lady Monarch's softball team dominated the West LA Wildcats with a 22-0 victory, thanks to an 11-run first inning and lights-out pitching. Valley College got the lead quick and early with an 11 run first inning, highlighted by a three run homerun by Sabrina Steward, her 4th RBI of the inning and a two run homerun by Rebecca Gomez's would give her 3 RBI's for the inning and push the Monarch's lead to 10. After 10 consecutive batters reached base safely in the inning, a couple ground outs and a pop fly would end the inning, for the Monarch's with the team leading by a score of 11-0 to end the first.

"What was key was that

we didn't give away at-bats and had a game plan going in," said Coach Greg Venger.

Pitcher Hanna Moulton got the start for the Monarch's and she was effective right from the beginning, working both sides of the plate, and gave the Monarch's two solid innings of work while piling up four strikeouts on her way to a win improving her record to 3-0.

"We are starting to play and feel good and the skill of these players is a key improvement," said Venger.

The Monarch's would take advantage of three costly errors, and use key hitting to score three runs in the 2nd, pushing their lead to 14. Pitcher Aaliyah Lopez-Martinez would come on in the top of the 3rd in relief and would wind up with three strikeouts and a score-

less inning.

The offense would reignite in the bottom of the 3rd, inning, with Steward hitting a grand slam over the left field wall, which was followed up by Rebecca Gomez's solo homerun to center field, for back to back homeruns contributing to an eight run inning by the Monarch's.

With the score 22-0 heading into the top of the 4th inning, Pitcher Pam Garcia would take the mound and continue the dominant pitching displayed in the game, as each of the six batters she faced fail to even get the ball out of the infield.

"Our goal is to be above .500 and be in the top half of the conference," Said Venger.



PHOTOGRAPHS/ DALE BECK

Heat_-Freshman pitcher Hanna Moulton takes the mound for the Monarchs and looks for another strikeout.

Moorpark shocks Lady Monarchs

The Lady Monarch basketball team dominated in the regular season but were shocked by Moorpark, who ended their play-off run.

BY FREDY VEGA
STAFF WRITER

A season filled with dominance and highlights for the ages ends with an unlikely outcome, Valley lost to Moorpark 55 to 45 in the second round of the Women's Basketball Championship tournament Friday night on Monarch grounds.

Thanks to the efforts of players like Rebecca Islas (22.5 PPG), Farrah Castillo (13.4 PPG), and Serena Tyus (8.8 PPG), the Lady Monarchs overcame several obstacles, including playing with only eight active players for much of the season. Their championship aspirations powered their undefeated conference record at 10-0 (21-9).

In last games versus Glendale and Victor Valley, they clinched

the Western State Conference and capped off a regular season of dominance with an 11-game winning streak. Head Coach Monica Hang with Islas and Castillo lead these Lady Monarchs into the post-season awaiting their next challenge, Moorpark, with high hopes, but fate had other plans.

"Our daily mentality is to take it one day at a time and one game at a time," said Coach Monica Hang. "All of our players and coaches play an important role in our team's success. Everyone understands that to be a successful team, one must sacrifice the me for the we."

Then, on February 23, the Los Angeles Valley College Women Monarchs suffered a surprise loss to Moorpark, 55 to 45.

Going into the game, Valley was considered to come out not only the winner, but advance to the regional finals. Moorpark had other

ideas and surprised the Monarchs on their own turf, holding top players Rebecca Islas to 10 points and Farrah Castillo to 7.

The huge difference was how Islas constantly struggled throughout the game, although coming away with the double double. Being held to under 20 points is not something Islas is used to as her point average for the season was 22.5; she shot 3 for 15 overall (20%) in the game. With the loss, the Monarchs now have put their focus for next season, but will have to do with without Islas and Castillo.

"Our goal prior to conference play was to go undefeated in the WSC East Division. We have last year's banner and we wanted to make sure the banner remains in the Monarch's Den," said Coach Hang. "The ladies have shown resilience and toughness."



PHOTOGRAPHS/ MIA GUZMAN

PLAY_OFFS-The Lady Monarchs win another league championship, but they were knocked out of the play-offs.

